

QA-157

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage

Centreville

Private

circa 1852

This brick town house was constructed circa 1852 by John Evans and used by him as a residence until 1856, when he sold the house and lot to the Methodist Episcopal Church for use as a parsonage. It served in this capacity until 1919, when the church sold the property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #1801575504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage

AND/OR COMMON

108 South Liberty Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Thompson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

108 South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 103

Folio #: 250

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-157

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This handsome brick house is believed to have been built circa 1850 as a parsonage for the Methodist Church. It is two-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a pair of flush brick chimneys at the south end of a pitched gable roof. An early wing was removed circa 1910 and was transported to a new site on Belvedere Street, where it was converted into a separate dwelling. It was replaced by a two story wing constructed of tile block.

The east or principal facade, facing South Liberty Street, is typical of the side hall-double parlour plan. The entrance door is located in the north bay, with two six-over-six windows in the south and center bays. Cellar windows are located directly below the two first floor windows, and three six-over-six windows are ranged across the second floor. A pair of pitched roof dormer windows with six-over-six sash are located on the third floor. The front door is paneled and has an elliptical transom. Raised panels flank the door, in place of sidelights.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The windows on the first floor have ornate cast iron lintels applied to the face of the brick. These have a peak at the center and are decorated with dentil blocks and a floral motif. Cast iron decoration of this type is generally associated with the post-Civil War period, but could be found as early as 1850. It is uncertain whether these lintels are original, or were added at an early date.

The eaves are finished with a box cornice supported by scrolled brackets applied against a molded back board. A crown mold adds refinement to the fascia board of the cornice, which returns at the corners. The gable eaves are boxed in, with a crown mold but no brackets.

The brickwork on this facade is composed of very smooth, wire-cut brick laid in stretcher bond with a plain watertable.

On the south gable wall, there are four six-over-six windows on the first floor, three on the second, and one in the center of the upper gable. The first floor windows are arranged with two windows between the chimneys and one on either side. The second floor fenestration is similar, but the front (east) window

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

is omitted.

The original fenestration on the north gable consisted of two six-over-six windows on the first and second floors, and one in the center of the upper gable. The east window on the first floor has been converted into a French door, however, allowing access onto an early 20th century one story porch. This porch is carried across the entire north wall, and wraps around the front corner of the building to protect the front door. It is supported by Doric columns resting on raised brick piers with molded concrete caps, a style quite popular in the first quarter of the 20th century. The roof of the porch is standing-seam tin, while the roof of the main house is asphalt shingle.

The brickwork on both gable walls (and presumably the rear wall) is laid with a courser brick than the front facade, and does not include a watertable. The contrast between the two brick types is particularly evident at the corners, where they meet.

The interior of the original house consists of a side hall along the north gable wall and two parlours on the south. The stair rises along the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

north wall of the hall to a landing at the rear.

It has an open-string carriage, turned newels, square balusters, and a plain walnut railing. The carriage piece is not decorated, and the space below the carriage is plastered, not paneled. A four-panel door below the landing leads to an interior cellar stair.

The doorway between the hall and the front parlour is quite large, while the door to the rear hall is a standard size, now fitted with a double French door. Fireplaces are centered on the gable wall in each parlour, and a large, original doorway connects the two rooms. The windows in the front parlour are recessed, with raised panels below the sills. The interior trim throughout the first floor is typical of the 1840's and 1850's, consisting of routed fascia boards with bullseye corner blocks. The baseboard is similar to that found at the Burrisville Methodist Church (1858), with a soft ogee molding above a rabbeted band.

The French door which leads from the hall to the porch also has matching trim. Part of this was undoubtedly reused from the window which it replaced, and the remainder must have been salvaged from the rear

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

windows, which were covered by the addition.

The original plan on the second floor was similar to the first floor, but the east end of the stair hall was partitioned to create a small unheated chamber. Later alterations were made to the plan to facilitate access to the rear addition. The partition between the rear chamber and the stair hall was shifted to the south to allow a narrow connecting hall. A small closet was added, and a door was cut through the partition between the two south chambers. The mantels and trim remain largely intact, but are quite plain compared to the first floor. The window and door surrounds have a 3/4 bead on the inner edge backed by a rabbeted band. An original closet is set into the alcove to the left of the fireplace in the front (east) chamber.

The third floor plan is identical to the second floor. The rooms are finished with plaster, beaded trim, and four-panel doors.

The roof is of common rafter construction, with 3 x 3½ circular sawn rafters half-lapped at the peak and nailed with machine nails. Circular sawn collar beams are also half-lapped and nailed. The rafters rest on a flat false plate at a 32 degree pitch.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

The ceiling plaster lathing is machine sawn, secured with machine nails.

The cellar is divided longitudinally into two rooms by a brick partition wall. A blocked fireplace is centered on the south wall in the rear room. The original fireplace crane remains in place, as noted by the present owner while making repairs to the furnace flue. An original bulkhead entrance in the southwest corner of the west wall was covered up by the rear addition. Large six-light windows remain in the north and west walls. The floor joists are circular sawn, and are reinforced with original bridging.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Evans

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thompson House at 108 South Liberty Street is typical of the side hall, double parlour plan town houses popular in Centreville throughout the first half of the 19th century. This house, built circa 1852 by John Evans, is of particular interest because of the intermixing of architectural ideas and details. The basic form and plan is generally associated with the Federal period, and is more typical of the first quarter of the 19th century. The interior detail is representative of the Greek Revival period, and commonly appears in this area in the period circa 1830-1860. The cast-iron window lintels on the street facade first became available circa 1850, and represent the arrival of manufactured building components available through mail order catalogues. The same collision of traditional methods and industrialized production can be seen in the use of wooden

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

bridging mixed with standard heavy timber framing in the construction of the first floor.

The Thompson House stands on the northeast half of Lot Number 16. This half-acre lot, together with the adjoining southwest half of Lot Number 17, was sold by Elizabeth Nicholson to Philip Feddeman in 1795.⁽¹⁾ Presumably Feddeman combined the two half-acre lots and built a single house on the property soon after he acquired it. He appears on the 1797 tax assessment listed as the owner of 1/2 acre of Lot 16 and 1/2 acre of Lot 17, the combined lot "improved" and valued at \$2,266.67, the second highest assessment in Centreville.⁽²⁾ On the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Feddeman is listed as the owner of one acre, "Lot 16 in Centreville". The lot is improved by a dwelling house 36 x 28, one meat house 10 x 10, one log stable 14 x 16, and one carriage house 8 x 14.⁽³⁾

The property remained in the Feddeman family until 1850, when Mary Feddeman sold the two half-acre lots to John Evans for \$1200.⁽⁴⁾ In 1856, Evans sold 1/2 acre of Lot 16 to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for \$2600. The deed specifies a "house and lot", to be used as the Methodist parsonage.⁽⁵⁾

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From this it is evident that the brick house now known as 108 South Liberty Street was built between 1850 and 1856 by John Evans. Further confirmation of this can be found in an interview with Dr. Joseph A. Holton, published in the Centreville paper January 20, 1912. Dr. Holton, who moved to Centreville in 1853, recalled that John Evans "was also the owner of the present Methodist Episcopal parsonage, which he built and in which he lived".⁽⁶⁾ It seems probable that the earlier Feddeman house stood on the half-acre of Lot 17, and was probably still standing in 1850, though the sale price suggests it was in a state of decline. (See 106 South Liberty Street, QA-159).

The Thompson House was used as a parsonage until 1919, when the Methodist Church sold the property to H. J. McPherson for \$5000.⁽⁷⁾ In 1961 Clayton Carter, as Executor of the will of McPherson, sold the house and lot to William Gambrill.⁽⁸⁾ In 1975, following the death of William Gambrill, the property was transferred to Helen Gambrill Goldsborough, and in 1976 she sold it to Robert Thompson, the present owner.⁽⁹⁾

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds, Liber STW 3, folio 295. March 25, 1795.
- (2) 1797 Tax Assessment of Centreville.
- (3) 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Wye Hundred.
- (4) Deeds, Liber JT 6, folio 366-7. June 25, 1850.
See also JT 6, folio 364. May 17, 1850.
- (5) Deeds, Liber JP 3, folio 145. July 9, 1856.
- (6) A newspaper clipping of the Holton interview is included in the Edwin Brown papers, Queen Anne's County Public Library.
- (7) Deeds, Liber JFR 3, folio 366. November 25, 1919.
- (8) Deeds, Liber TSP 6, folio 172. May 1, 1961.
- (9) Deeds, Liber CWC 103, folio 250. April 1, 1976.
See also CWC 96, folio 141. August 6, 1975.

QA-157

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/31/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

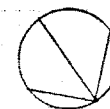
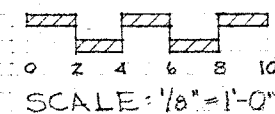
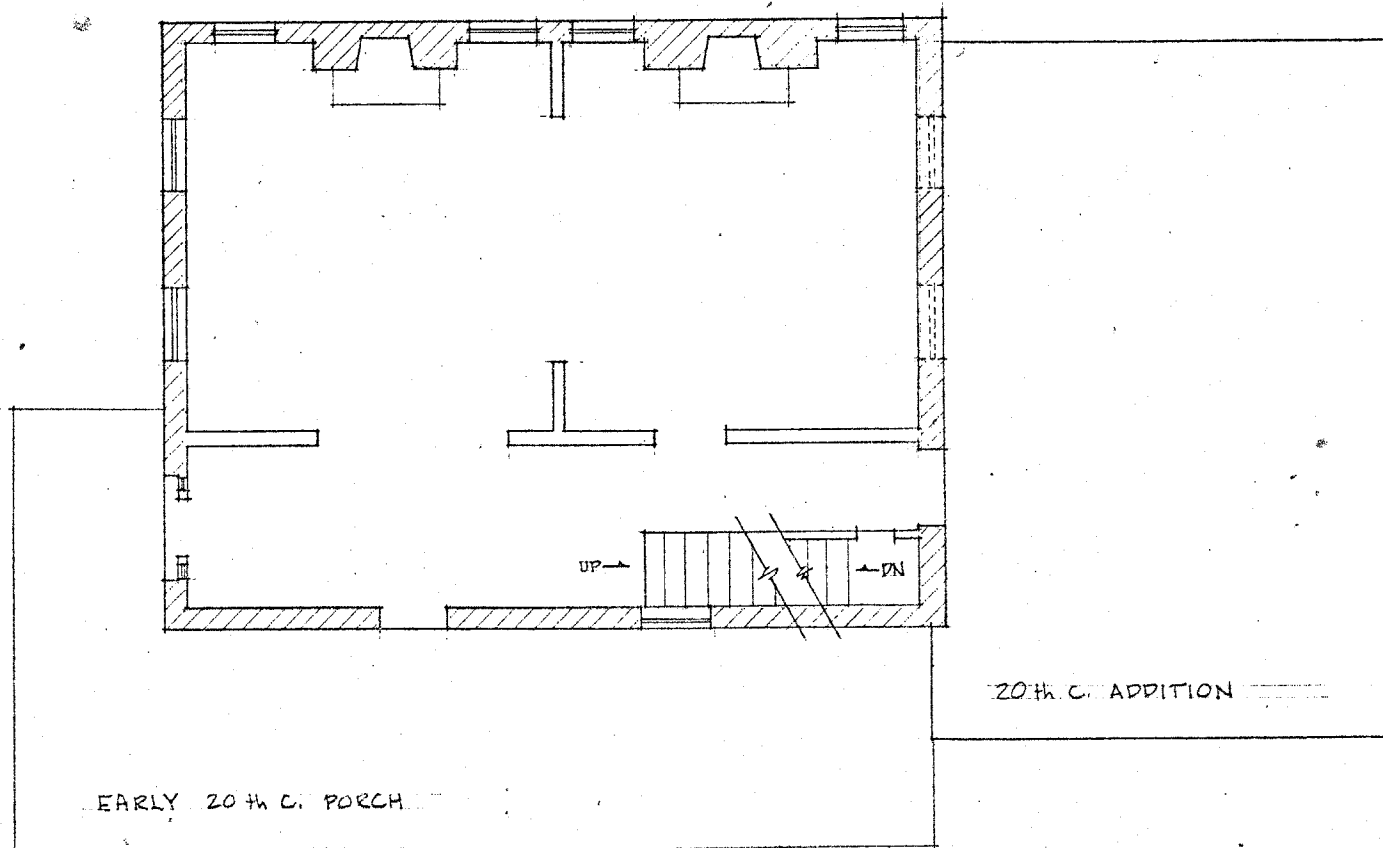
STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



ORLANDO RIDOUT Y

QA-157

108 SOUTH LIBERTY STREET
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

OCTOBER 9, 1978.

QA-157
Methodist Episcopal
Parsonage

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-157

108 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Front facade and south gable



QA-157

108 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Front facade and north gable



QA-157

108 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Rear wing



QA-157

108 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Detail of first floor window
hood